

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:  
receiving search criteria entered by a user, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;  
passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;  
searching ~~a~~ the database for data records matching the search criteria;  
generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria; and  
caching the search results in a computer memory to maintain persistency of the search results.
2. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category.
3. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising refining the search results based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

4. Canceled.

5. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[4]] 1,  
further comprising:

passing the received search criteria from the Virtual Business Component to a  
search execution business service.

6. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein  
searching the database further comprises:

using a search execution business service to search the database for data records  
matching the search criteria.

7. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein  
caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in a search execution business service to maintain  
persistency of the search results.

8. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein  
caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in a search execution business service until termination  
of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user  
session.

9. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:  
receiving a search category and a search keyword entered by a user via a user interface generated by a computing device;  
passing the received search category and the search keyword to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;  
searching ~~a~~ the database for data records matching the search category and the search keyword;  
generating search results comprising of the data records matching the search category and the search keyword; and  
caching the search results in a computer memory to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of a session.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim ~~4~~10, further comprising:

passing the received search category and the search keyword from the Virtual Business Component to a search execution business service.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein searching the database further comprises:

using a search execution business service to search the database for data records matching the search category and the search keyword~~search criteria~~.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in a search execution business service to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of a session.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising:

sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

16. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a user interface generated by a computing device to receive search criteria entered by a user, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;

a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the search criteria from the user interface and to represent a database as a business object;

a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component, to perform a search in the database for data records matching the search criteria, to generate search results comprising of the data records matching the received

search criteria, and to cache the search results to maintain persistency of the search results.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the search criteria comprises at least one search category.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service refines the search results based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service caches the search results until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service sends the search results to the user interface so that the search results can be listed on the user interface.

21. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:  
a user interface generated by a computing device to receive search criteria entered by a user, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;  
a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the search criteria from the user interface and to represent a database as a business object;

a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component, to perform a search in the database for data records matching the search criteria, and to cache search results to maintain persistency of the search results.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the search criteria comprises at least one search category.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the business service performs a second search based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
a search adapter to adapt to a selected search engine and to generate search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria; ~~and, wherein~~  
the business service ~~eaching~~ caches the search results generated by the search adapter to maintain persistency of the search results.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the business service caches the search results until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the business service sends the search results to a search frame so that the search results can be listed on the user interface.

27. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving search criteria entered by a user via a graphical user interface generated by a computing device, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;  
passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;  
searching ~~a~~the database for data records matching the search criteria;  
generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria; and  
caching the search results to maintain persistency of the search results.

28. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category and at least one search keyword.

29. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

30. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising:  
sending the search results to a search frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

31. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising refining the search results based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.